

This two-volume set is organized first by era (the first being pre-1900, then a section for each decade thereafter, up to and including the 2010's), while the entries within each section are organized alphabetically. Within the section for each decade there are a series of four sidebars that provide further insights into each decade. Themes for each sidebar include "Face of the Decade," which "spotlights the people or ideal images that best personified the era. 'Games People Play' looks at the toys, games, and other diversions that were the most popular at the time. 'The Only Way to Go' focuses on transportation, and 'Everybody's Talking' eavesdrops on what fashionable people were chatting about" (xxvi).

Ragtime, baseball cards, drive-in movies, MAD Magazine, pet rocks, and mood rings are just a sampling of the over 200 fads and crazes covered, with each entry spanning one to three pages in length. Each entry concludes with suggested further reading that directs users to an additional one to five sources on each topic. An exhaustive alphabetical index, spanning over 100 pages, enables researchers to find exactly what they are looking for with great specificity and further enhances the usability of this encyclopedia. One feature that is particularly noteworthy is the inclusion of a section titled, "Popular Slang and Catchphrases by Decade." Essentially a glossary and dictionary of terms and phrases, this section provides readers with a fun and valuable insight into the colloquialisms used by Americans in their everyday language and conversations throughout each decade.

The writing style and technique of author Nancy Hendricks deserves special mention as well. Entries are equal parts informative and fascinating and will quickly and easily grab the attention of its reader. While the entries are fairly short in length, this is very much a positive, as they are best described as succinct and to the point. Her clear and approachable writing gives this encyclopedia more of a conversational tone that will appeal to readers young and old alike.

Thoroughly researched, thoughtfully organized, and written with great skill and technique, *Popular Fads and Crazes through American History* is a gem that is easy to recommend. This two-volume set would make a welcome addition to any public, school, or academic library.—*Matthew Laudicina, Senior Reference Librarian, Manuscripts and Special Collections, New York State Library*

---

***Pro Wrestling: A Comprehensive Reference Guide.*** By Lew Freedman. Santa Barbara, CA: Greenwood, 2018. 305 p. Acid-free \$94. (ISBN 978-1-4408-5350-0). E-book Available (978-1-4408-5351-7), call for pricing.

Professional wrestling is one of the most popular forms of entertainment in the world, delivering spectacles that are equal parts athletic competition and theatrical performance. As pro wrestlers have grown in stature from local heroes to worldwide superstars, so too has the wrestling industry grown from traveling road shows to globally televised productions. Despite the massive success of pro wrestling,

a literature search reveals a dearth of reference guides and scholarly analysis on the subject. In *Pro Wrestling: A Comprehensive Reference Guide*, author Lew Freedman provides a much-needed guide for newcomers to this unique hybrid of sport and performing art.

The volume begins with a preface that establishes its goal of "highlighting the famous and important names who elevated pro wrestling in public esteem" (ix). This is followed by an introduction that traces the growth of pro wrestling to its current status as a multimillion-dollar industry and a chronology that identifies some key dates in this development. The guide is comprised of 100 entries arranged alphabetically and primarily focused on the careers and lives of individual wrestlers. A few other important topics are also covered, including wrestling promoters and governing bodies. Each entry helpfully includes see also references and a further reading list predominantly composed of news articles, websites, and popular nonfiction titles for readers to explore.

For popular culture scholars or knowledgeable fans of pro wrestling, this work does have some limitations. There is little discussion of the terminology and tropes of wrestling storytelling beyond an article on kayfabe—the essential genre convention that all things depicted in a wrestling performance are real. Additionally, the biographical entries focus less on personal lives and more on each wrestler's career and in-ring exploits. Even this information is presented in the form of a broad overview, with brief descriptions of character traits and storyline highlights, rather than examined in significant detail.

As a result of these limitations, this guide may be more appropriate for a general audience seeking an introduction to the world of pro wrestling. The focus on major personalities is a compelling hook for new fans and younger readers, and the suggested further readings are easily accessible online or through a library. This, combined with the overall lack of guides about pro wrestling, makes this title a potentially valuable addition to high school and public library collections.—*Kapil Vasudev, Special Collections Resident Librarian, The Ohio State University, Columbus, Ohio*

---

***Reading Harper Lee: Understanding To Kill a Mockingbird and Go Set a Watchman.*** By Claudia Durst Johnson. Santa Barbara, CA: Greenwood, 2018. 183 p. Acid-free \$39 (ISBN 978-1-4408-6127-7). Ebook Available (978-1-4408-6128-4), call for pricing.

*Reading Harper Lee: Understanding To Kill a Mockingbird and Go Set a Watchman* by Claudia Durst Johnson is meant to assist students studying the work of Harper Lee by providing context for her life and work and examining key topics such as race, class, and gender. It functions in some ways as an update to Johnson's *Understanding To Kill a Mockingbird: A Student Casebook to Issues, Sources, and Historic Documents* (Greenwood, 1994) since it includes analysis of *Go Set a Watchman*. Rather than being a replacement for the 1994 reference work, it functions as a great complement for a

## SOURCES

student studying Harper Lee. While *Understanding To Kill a Mockingbird* provides numerous primary documents to help a student understand the historical context, *Reading Harper Lee* provides a more concise analysis of themes, which potentially makes it more accessible to a student new to literary criticism.

The first three chapters examine Harper Lee's life, the historical context, and the literary structure and themes of both texts. The rest of the chapters examine key themes, including race relations, gender analysis, the impact of social class, the role of The South, Atticus Finch, and censorship. Each chapter has section headings written in bold that will help a student hone in on relevant aspects of the themes. Students should be able to use these sections to both further their understanding of what they are reading and to find inspiration for potential paper topics. The book also includes further readings at the end of each chapter, an in-depth chronology, notes on sources used, and an index.

Claudia Durst Johnson, the author of this resource, is a professor emeritus of English Literature at the University of Alabama and noted scholar of Harper Lee. Johnson's research eventually led to her having a personal relationship with Harper Lee. While *Reading Harper Lee* is written to be very approachable for a student, Johnson's knowledge of the author and the texts is evidenced throughout the work. For example, when examining the publishing history of *Go Set a Watchman*, she gives a good example of the impact of the "light editing" that was done: "unfortunately the 'light edit' did not catch a critical mistake in the key passage on page 265 where the word 'conscious' is used instead of 'conscience.' Even the part of the speech is faulty" (16). This example would hopefully make a student want to examine for herself what was published and why a mistake like that might be meaningful.

This reading guide is appropriate for public, high school, and college libraries. Though the primary audience for this text will be high school students and undergraduates, the inclusion of *Go Set a Watchman* will increase the appeal for any literary scholar or student interested in American literature. Since the work around examining the impact of *Go Set a Watchman* is still in the nascent stage, the effort here to begin to explain its publishing history and to explore how it works with and against *To Kill a Mockingbird* will be valuable, especially if used with the further readings and notes on sources. It makes one interested to see how future literary scholars will approach these two texts.—Arianne A. Hartsell-Gundy, *Librarian for Literature and Theater Studies, Duke University, Durham, North Carolina*

---

***The Biology of Beauty: The Science behind Human Attractiveness.*** By Rachele M. Smith. Santa Barbara, CA: Greenwood, 2018. 264 p. Acid-free \$61 (ISBN 978-1-4408-6). E-book Available (978-1-4408-4989-3), call for pricing.

Rachele M. Smith, an associate professor of psychology and the chair of social sciences at Husson University, is

the author of this one-volume work. The subject of beauty is complex and has been heavily researched among many academic disciplines like anthropology, biology, evolutionary studies, psychology, and sociology. This research "has added to a foundation of understanding what it means to be attractive and the biological underpinnings of beauty" (vii).

Part one, "Understanding Beauty," consists of seven chapters beginning with chapter one, "Defining Beauty." Smith provides an overview of the empirical research that has demonstrated "that there are universal characteristics that are perceived as beautiful" (29). Some of these characteristics include face symmetry, sexual dimorphism, age, and body mass index. At the end of each chapter is a conclusion which summarizes the main points of the chapter. There are no in-text citations, but an extensive "References and Further Reading" list is provided at the end of the book.

Chapter two, "The Benefits of Beauty," explores the physical, social, and psychological benefits of being beautiful. Chapter three, "Buying Beauty," is about cosmetics, surgeries, and other efforts made to uphold and increase attractiveness through the maintenance of hair, nails, hands, teeth, and body. Chapter four, "Changes in Beauty Trends over Time," addresses how the beauty ideals for both women and men shift throughout time and that during the twentieth century many of these changes can be correlated with fashion and hairstyle trends.

Chapter five, "Evolution's Impact on Modern Attraction: The Interaction of Genes and Environment," introduces evolution and the role it plays with attraction and relationships through natural selection, sexual selection, and the role of parental investment. Chapter six, "The Impact of Attractiveness on Behavior and Relationship Satisfaction," explains how the level of attractiveness can affect the quality, longevity, and satisfaction of relationships. Chapter seven, "Psychological Effects of the Preoccupation with Beauty," delves into the negative consequences that often occur with the pursuit of the unattainable beauty ideal, some of which include low self-esteem, depression, poor body image, and eating disorders. Smith also addresses the influencing role the media plays on beauty and behavior.

Part two, "Beauty from Head to Toe," examines fifteen physical characteristics that contribute to attractiveness. Some of these body parts are the "Head, Facial, and Body Hair," "Skin," "Eyes," "Nose," "Lips," "Hands," "Breasts and Buttocks," "Inguinal Crease," and "Feet." Part two also contains ten different sidebars of information about other cultural beauty practices and trends, some of which include "Skin Bleaching in Tanzania," "Elongated Skulls in the Congo," "Double eyelid surgery in China," and "Large Bodies in Mauritania." Many of these examples are illustrated with black and white images.

A related title, *Beauty around the World: A Cultural Encyclopedia* by Erin Kenny and Elizabeth Gackstetter Nichols (ABC-CLIO, 2017), also provides an interdisciplinary approach into beauty and beauty standards with a global focus. It is organized like a traditional encyclopedia with 166